

# **SCIENCE FOR ALL AT BUNNINGS SUNSHINE 2020**

**Evaluation report of January 2020 event**

**‘Introduction to Waterway Health’**

A project by



**SCIENCE FOR ALL**

## About this document

This evaluation report has been written by Science for All to document the first event run in partnership with Bunnings Sunshine.

## Summary

On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 Science for All successfully hosted their first event at Bunnings, Sunshine. The event ran for two hours and had direct focus on local waterway health and sustainability within the Brimbank area. Participants were offered a range of exciting activities including:

- A pH and Waterway Health Station.
- A Macro Invertebrate Station.
- A 'Little Critter' Viewing Station.
- A 'Little Critter' Creation Station.

The event attracted 26 people on the day (18 young people and 6 adults, parents and carers), mainly families with young children. Of the participants, seven chose to share their 'dreams' for Brimbank with us on the day (see below) and also signed up our social media to receive information on upcoming events. Rose Goddee (Bunnings Sunshine Activity Organiser Officer) was Science for All's main point of contact throughout the planning and delivery of the event. Members of Science for All who attended on the day included Jack Nunn (Director), Simon Egan (Water Testing Expert), Kimberley Allan (Communications and Project Coordinator). We were also joined by Lynette Plenderleith (Founder of Frogs Victoria).

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## Activity Overview

Four activity areas were set up and run by Science for All members as well as Rose who assisted in participant engagement and the supervision of the crafts area. The following is a brief summary of each station.

### The pH and Waterway Health Station

This activity, which was led by Simon, was primarily focused on teaching participants about the basics of pH, the role it plays in influencing waterway health and how humans might contribute to poor pH. Simon also provided ways participants can protect their local waterway through simple actions like not littering or picking up their dog's waste. The parameters of pH were demonstrated using indicators such as cabbage and household products which may be found present in waterways (E.g. Bleach). This activity was used to provide examples of how everyday household products can impact waterway health by changing its pH. It was a great hit with the children!



### The Macro Invertebrate Station

This activity had three different samples of water which was collected from local waterways including Kororoit Creek. The samples were collected deliberately from different sections of the waterway to demonstrate good and poor water quality as a visual demonstration. Accompanying trays were set up with spoons and dishes so participants could carefully 'fish' for the macroinvertebrates found within the water samples before taking them over to the next station to view their 'little critter'.





## The 'Little Critter' Viewing Station

This activity allowed participants to have a closer look at the macroinvertebrates (or 'little critters') found within the waterway samples. Participants were encouraged to use the microscope which was connected to a large TV within the activity area. With assistance of Science for All team members, participants were able to learn about what they had found and understand the functions of each 'little critter' within its environment and its impact on waterway health as well as being equipped with firsthand knowledge in how to use scientific equipment. Pictured below is an image of a fresh water shrimp captured on the day.



## The 'Little Critter' Creation Station

The final activity was equipped with all things crafty to allow participants to create the 'little critters' they had found throughout the other stations. Pictures were provided with common macroinvertebrates and 'fun facts' related to the organism that children could colour in and take home with them.



## Participant Numbers

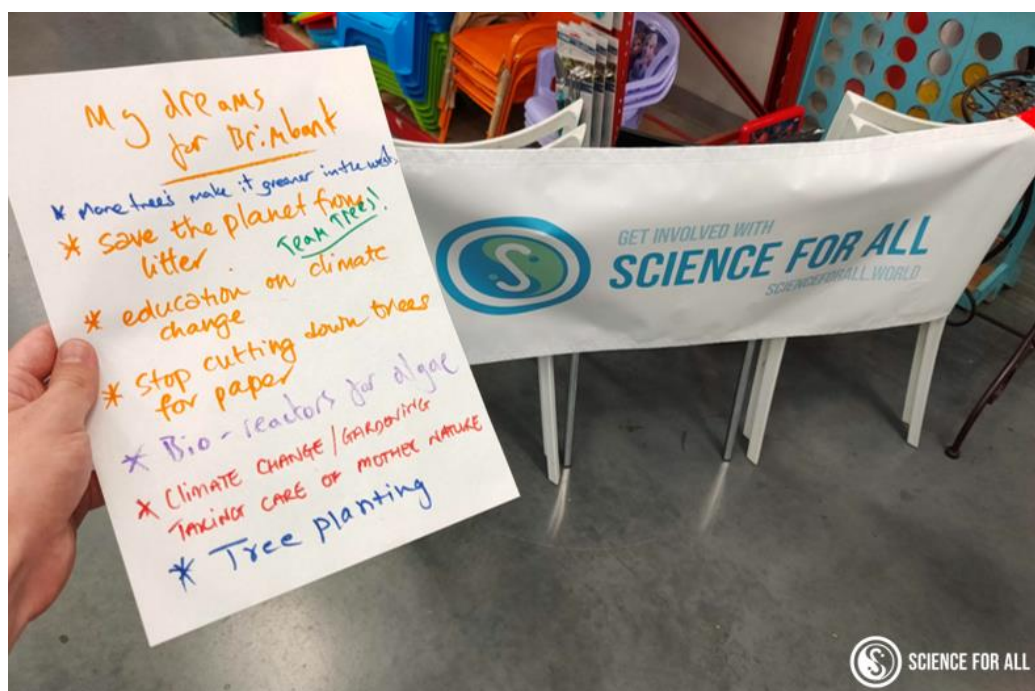
The event attracted 26 people on the day (18 young people and 6 adults, parents and carers), mainly families with young children. The participant demographic on the day was predominantly young children assisted by parents. The age range of young children was between 3 to 13 years of age with a somewhat even ratio of females to males. Some parents also participated in the activities with their children forming an adult interest on the day. The microscope connected to the TV was a draw point for all ages. Questions about science from parents as well as children were welcomed and happily answered by Science for All team members!



## ‘Dreams for Brimbank’

During the event, we asked participants what their ‘dreams’ might be for Science for All in Brimbank 2020. This could include what they hope to learn, create or envision for future Science for All Events in Brimbank. This included (But is not limited to!):

- ‘Team Trees’ – Wanting to plant 1 million trees in Brimbank and make the area ‘greener’ overall. Lots of interest in planting trees!
- Save the planet from litter through education and initiatives.
- More education on Climate Change.
- Building Bioreactors for algae!
- More action on Climate Change through gardening and taking care of mother nature.



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## Acknowledgments

Science for All would like to say a big thankyou to Rose who made this opportunity possible. Her assistance and direction throughout the planning and execution of the event is highly valued. Science for All would also like to thank Kimberley who organised the itinerary for the event and made sure everything went to plan on the day.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Simon Egan for facilitating the fantastic session on pH, and to Lynette Plenderleith for volunteering her time and expertise to help explain macroinvertebrates. This Report was written by Kimberley Allan with the assistance of Jack Nunn.

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